Passengers Facilities at Cochin Airport

1983. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need for providing more facilities for the passengers at Cochin Airport;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take immediate steps for the development of Cochin Airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The existing airport at Cochin belongs to Indian Navy. Technically it is not possible to modify and extend the existing terminal building. A new airport at Nedumbassery, at a distance of 24 kms. from present the airport, is being constructed by Cochin International Airport Limited and is expected to be completed within one year.

Hardships to Passengers Due to Setting up of Bazar Plaza

1984. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the passengers are facing hardships due to setting up of a Bazar Plaza besides the Cab Road of Howrah Railway Station;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the movement of passengers were restricted by this Bazar and hinderances to the public during the peak hours;

(c) if so, whether any steps to be taken to shift the Bazar Plaza in consultation with the Vendors and Catering Staff of Howrah North Wing Vending Stall;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) There is no Bazar Plaza inside Howrah Station. However, for smooth flow of passengers, some stalls have been shifted from the South Concourse to the North Concourse in an area which is protected by iron grill fencing. Moreover, shifting of stalls from South Concourse has been also necessitated due to preposed reconstruction of double discharge facilities.

Increase in the Air Fare

1985. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been increasing air fare since 1995 again and again; and

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given to the N.E. Region States since 1995?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Indian Airlines has increased its fares on domestic sectors w.e.f. 1st October, 1995 by an average of 20% and w.e.f. 22nd September, 1996 on an average of 16.3% respectively.

(b) No subsidy has been given for operation of services to North Eastern region since 1995.

Enhancement of Fare

1986. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.4136 dated December 19, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the Government have come to the conclusion that many passengers may not like to avail this facility and because of bedrolls to all passengers may require enhancement of fare;

(b) if so, whether the provision of providing the bedrolls does not fall under passenger amenities;

(c) whether any survey is being conducted about the opinion of the passengers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Considering the fact that bed rolls may be required by the passengers travelling in AC3-Tier coaches, bed rolls are being supplied to all the passengers travelling in AC 3-Tier coaches of Rajdhani Express trains by including the bed roll charges in the fare itself. In the case of trains other than Rajdhani Expresses, Zonal Railways have been advised to supply bed rolls on demand to passengers travelling in AC 3-Tier coaches on realising the prescribed charges.

(c) Survey is conducted from time to time to obtain the opinion of the passengers on passenger amenity items including supply of bed rolls.

(d) Does not arise.

Modern Exchange at Muvattupuzha in Ernakulam

1987. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to commission a Modern Telephone Exchange at Muvattupuzha in Ernakulam district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A 5,000 lines Modern Telephone exchange at Muvattupuzha is planned.